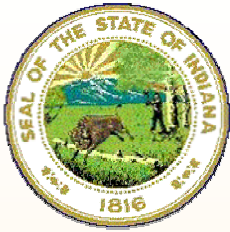


SENATOR GLENN HOWARD



RESIDENCE

1005 W. 36th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46208
923-1101

STATE CAPITOL

200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
232-9491

ONLINE

S33@IN.gov
www.IN.gov/S33

Inside this issue . . .

Federal mandates	2
Health care issues	2
Page program	2
Legislative survey	3
Stay informed	4

Dear Friends:

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you about some of the issues facing legislators as we begin the 114th Indiana General Assembly in January. The four-month long session, by law, must adjourn on or before April 29, 2005. During that time, lawmakers will consider hundreds of proposals and make public policy decisions that will affect Indiana and its citizens for the next several years.

How to properly fund public schools, provide relief for Hoosiers most affected by rising health care costs, enhance economic development initiatives, continue efforts to retrain our workforce and create more jobs are just a few of the issues to be considered as we work together to make Indiana an even better place to live, work and raise our families.

Crafting a new state budget for the next two fiscal years will top the legislative agenda. Although we have managed to maintain solid reserves throughout the national recession, the state is facing a gap between expected spending and projected revenues. The key to managing the budget will be to cut spending by finding new efficiencies, consolidate agencies and eliminate ineffective programs. It is also vitally important that we protect services and funding for education, or Indiana will begin to lose its ability to develop economically and grow our way out of the current fiscal situation.

I would like to request your input on the enclosed survey, which deals with legislation likely to be considered. I hope you will take time to complete the survey online or return it to me by mail. Once all responses have been tallied, you will receive the survey results.

Additionally, you will find information on how to get involved and stay informed. Subscribe to receive my legislative updates online or return the form on the back page to receive them by mail. Log on to the General Assembly's web site at www.in.gov/legislative to obtain full bill texts and committee hearing information. You can also contact me for legislative information or if you are experiencing any problems with which I can be of assistance.

As your State Senator, it is my job to communicate to the General Assembly the issues that matter most to the citizens of Senate District 33. Most of the bills that become law will in some way affect all of us, our families and our communities. Please contact me by phone, mail or email, and let me know your thoughts and concerns. The legislative process works best when citizens get involved. I look forward to hearing from you.

Wishing you a healthy and prosperous New Year,

Unfunded federal mandates

Costs of federal programs could shift to states

In these tight fiscal times, a major concern facing state legislators is the possibility of more federal mandates that shift additional costs to state and local units of government. The National Conference of State Legislatures released a study last March reporting that states have been confronted with \$29 billion in cost shifts. This figure is projected to increase to nearly \$34 billion in 2005.

Examples of under-funded programs include the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). I am very concerned that the federal government will continue to shift the costs of these programs to the states as unfunded mandates. Indiana's funding shortfall from the federal government is estimated to be \$480 million just for 2004. If the state had received adequate program funding over

the past several years, it would not be facing a budget gap today.

IDEA was created in 1975 to provide every special education student with an additional 40 percent of the cost of general education students. The program was to be fully funded by 1982, but states never received their full allocations. In 2002, Indiana should have received a total of \$420.4 million for special education students, but only \$171 million was dispersed. To make up for the lost funding, the state and local school districts scrambled to find millions in lost revenue to provide the programs required for special education students.

These "Catch 22" cost shifts are contributing to our state's fiscal problems and are an unrealistic expectation. It is time for state and local officials to band together to halt Congress' renewed push for more state mandates.

Serve as a Senate Page!

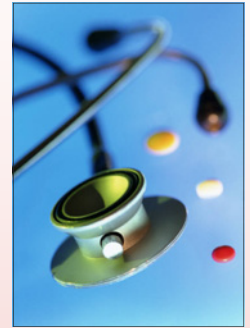
Students between the ages of 12 and 18 may apply to serve as Student Pages while the General Assembly is in session from January 4 through April 29. This day off school is considered an excused absence.



To apply or receive further information, interested students should contact my State Capitol office at **232-9491**.

Focus on: **HEALTH CARE**

The rising costs of health care will undoubtedly receive much attention this session. As many as 600,000 Hoosiers are without health insurance coverage. Many of these individuals are employed by small businesses that cannot afford to provide coverage.



A governor's task force has been developing a plan designed to reduce the growing number of Hoosiers with no health insurance. The "Hoosier Health Plan" recommends the pooling of small businesses and individuals who are self-employed to provide them with affordable health care under a bulk-purchasing plan with competitive rates. The state received federal funding to support the startup of the program, but it will be up to the new administration and the General Assembly to determine how to use the grant for pilot programs.

Being able to provide quality, affordable health insurance to many of Indiana's uninsured is more than a health care or insurance issue. It also relates to economic development and jobs. The majority of

**"As many as
600,000 Hoosiers
are without health
insurance coverage."**

Indiana businesses are small, and their success is being threatened by rising health care costs. Many small businesses are

finding it increasingly difficult to keep employees because of the financial burden health care has become.

Legislators are also expected to consider legislation to expand the state's new bulk prescription drug purchasing program, which was established by the 2004 General Assembly. The program created a pool of more than 400,000 state, local and public university employees to increase the state's buying power and the ability to negotiate lower prescription drug costs. Under a bill to be introduced in 2005, legislators will be considering the possibility of expanding the pool to include small businesses, county hospitals and non-profit organizations.

2005 Legislative Survey

Feel free to have another family member respond to questions in column #2.

You may also complete this survey on-line at www.in.gov/s33

Respondent #1 Respondent #2

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1. Do you support the use of existing user taxes to fund a new venue for multi-use purposes in Indianapolis? | 1. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Do you support Mayor Peterson's plan to restructure local and township government? | 2. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Should Indiana join several other states in a new drug-import program to make cheaper prescription drugs available from Canada and Europe, despite a federal ban on the imports? | 3. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Currently, 15 of Indiana's 92 counties observe daylight-saving time during the spring and summer months. This does <u>not</u> include Marion County. Would you support legislation to require all 92 counties to observe daylight-saving time as proposed by Governor-elect Daniels? | 4. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Would you support legislation to authorize the use of public funding to provide vouchers for children to attend private schools? | 5. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. The Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress-Plus (ISTEP+) test is currently given in the fall to students in Grades 3, 6, 8 and 10 to allow teachers to address what students need to learn. Some believe the test should be moved to the spring as a measure of what students have learned. Opponents feel this leaves little time for student improvements. Would you support moving the ISTEP+ exam to the spring? | 6. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Do you support amending the Indiana State Constitution to include language that would clearly define marriage as a union between a man and a woman, even though this language already exists in current Indiana state law (Indiana Code 31-11-1-1)? | 7. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |

Additional Comments: _____

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this survey. Your opinions are very important to me!



State Senator Glenn Howard
200 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2785
Phone: 232-9491
E-mail: S33@IN.gov

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
INDIANAPOLIS, IN
PERMIT NO 8644

Stay Informed

To keep you up-to-date on the many issues being considered by the Indiana General Assembly, I will be distributing brief updates discussing the challenges we face here in Indiana. If you are interested in receiving these periodic updates, please check the appropriate box.

- ☐ Please mail issue updates to my home address.
- ☐ Please send issue updates to me via Email. My Email address is: (print clearly)
_____ or go online to www.in.gov/s33 and subscribe now.
- ☐ I am not interested at this time.

If address is different than above, please print
corrections clearly or affix mailing label here.

Place
Postage
Stamp
Here

State Senator Glenn Howard
State Capitol
200 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis IN 46204-2785

Howard '05 Legislative Survey Response

Please tape or staple here. Thank you.